Shortage of Pilots with national carriers

*137. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national air carriers are at present facing shortage of pilots;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on 30th June, 2005, company-wise;

(c) how these companies propose to fill their existing vacancies of pilots; and

(d) what is Government's planning to increase recruitment and training of the pilots so as to ensure that there would be no shortage of pilots in India by the end of this decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At present, Air India (including Air India Express) has a shortage of 118 pilots, whereas Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Indian Airlines has a shortage of 40 pilots.

(c) Air India/Alliance Air are in the process of recruiting additional pilots to fill up the vacancies through open advertisements in leading newspapers, campus recruitment from IGRUA at frequent intervals and foreign recruitment agencies.

(d) To overcome the shortage of Pilots, following steps have been taken by the Government:-

1. Capacity of IGRUA is being increased and the training facilities being upgraded to train more pilots.
2. Additional flying training institute is being set up by Government at Gondia, Maharashtra.
3. Total flying requirement for issue of Commercial Pilot's Licence(CPL) has been reduced from 250 hrs. to 200 hrs.
4. Age of pilots who can operate commercial flights has been increased from 60 to 61 years.

Cap on borrowing abroad for funding export credit

*138. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks have to reckon with a cap on borrowing abroad for funding export credit;